

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone:

We request that the Committee on Energy and Commerce hold a hearing to examine the Healthy Adult Opportunity (HAO) demonstration initiative proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services last week. We are concerned that the committee with jurisdiction over the Medicaid program has not examined this proposal, even though the full House will vote on a statement of disapproval tomorrow. Opponents of this policy have rushed to criticize it, issuing statements only an hour after its release, or in the instance of 36 Democratic lawmakers, before the proposal was even public.

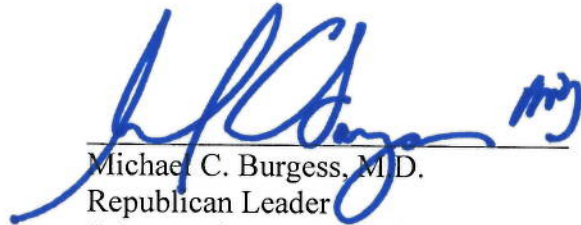
The HAO demonstration is a serious, thoughtful proposal that needs to be more extensively discussed. Yet, the House is expected to vote on this demonstration only a week after it was released. We fear that this is just another case of partisan politics overtaking serious debate. The Committee on Energy and Commerce has always prided itself on a commitment to regular order, allowing thoughtful and meaningful debate on policies that come before us. Unfortunately, here we are—once again—ignoring that policy, focusing on scoring political points rather than making substantive progress.

Let's take the time to have a committee hearing examining the HAO demonstration. Let's call representatives from CMS, and state governments, so that we can hear more about how these proposals would impact the Medicaid program. There are many provisions in this proposal we can get behind, lower drug costs, increased health coverage, more transparency. We hope that you will be willing to spend more time on this process than has been done already.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Walden", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Walden  
Republican Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. C. Burgess", written over a horizontal line.

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Health